

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of my son; he is three years old and has autism. He does not have the voice to fight for himself at this time. It is unconscionable to think that the people we place in a position to look out for the best interest of our communities and more importantly our children seem to have little disregard for the actions they may take. My son whom has autism has many behavior challenges in life that inhibit his ability to learn and be successful within his classroom or within his community. It is only because of the Board Certified Behavior Analysts' (BCBA) that he is now learning the tools and fundamentals of education. It is with the BCBA efforts and plans that keep him on course to hopefully lead a typical life within school and his community. It is with the BCBA's that created his plan that he is learning to control behaviors while around others and is beginning to make friends, as his typical peers have already done. While each specialist is fantastic at what they do they are NOT TRAINED in BEHAVIOR. You should not expect that our children will continue to thrive and grow with untrained professionals trying to assist the needs of children whom require an intensive ABA program with a BCBA overseeing that program. You should take into consideration the pressures of asking the Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist or other staff to handle the ABA programs and behavior related plans. You would be taking away from their services that they are providing to children, causing deficiencies in all areas for children whom are already struggling. It is already difficult in many schools for children to receive the adequate time for therapy because therapists have such a heavy case load. It is irresponsible on the part of government to not understand the ramifications of the decision to dissolve the need for a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to oversee ABA programs. In addition, you should also take into account that without proper ABA services students with autism not only will not learn but can regress causing the cost of later treatment and lifelong care to increase.

You should want to take the time to identify yourself as a parent, professional, public school employee, grandparent, neighbor, relative, or friend to someone with autism. Hopefully by doing this you will see the need and importance of having Board Certified Behavior Analyst implementing the ABA Programs.

Thank you for your time.

Stacy Barnaby

Mother of a 3 year old boy with Autism